

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2001

Alaska Building, 13th Floor

Seattle, WA 98104

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Marc Avni, Martha Becker, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, Cleo Corcoran, Timmie Faghin, Lee Gaylor, Miriam Horrigan, Murray Meld, Will Parry, Cecil Pollard, Karen Sluiter Helen Spencer, Cherie Sigiest, Greg Stack

Absent: Susanne Gehring, Peter Steinbrueck, Leo Ward, Suzanne Wiley

Excused: Pat Carroll, Juanita Grant, Randy Hayhurst, Gladys Romero, Mae Shields, Fred Yee

STAFF: Pamela Piering, Karen Winston, Jane Crum, Margaret Casey, Suzanne Simmons, Linda Woodall

GUESTS: Judy Moulinet, Grant Ringle, Jolena Kraska, Elizabeth Schilling, Jim Todd, David Trainer, George Wood

Minutes

Murray Meld, Chair, convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The minutes of the July 13, 2001 were amended to include the following members and staff who attended the meeting: Thelma Coney, Gladys Romero, Pat Carroll, Cleo Corcoran and Margaret Casey.

Program

Murray Meld introduced the panelists for the discussion on Energy Issues: Elizabeth Schilling, public relations specialist in customer outreach with Seattle City Light's Office of Communications and Public Affairs; Jim Todd with Seattle City Light's Office of External Affairs; Grant Ringle, Director of Corporate Communications for Puget Sound Energy and George Wood, manager of the Energy and Utility Assistance programs with City of Seattle, Human Services Department.

Elizabeth Schilling and Jim Todd began by giving an overview of the current situation. Most Western Washington rates are up by about 60%, with rates hovering around 6 cents/kWH.

The cause of this increase is two part: **prices** and the **drought**.

Prices: Beginning in April 2000 wholesale electricity prices soared to historic levels, the past two months have seen this market collapse, but prices are still 40% higher than at the beginning of 2000. Lower prices isn't all good news, City Light sells power in certain months and the unexpected drop in prices came at the time when City Light has power to sell. City Light and other northwest hydro generators were depending on this income. **Drought:** In City Light's Skagit and Boundary watersheds, the 2001 water year is the driest in 75 years of water history.

An additional part of the crisis is the demand on transmission lines. Seattle is very dependent on the Western Transmission Grid, and the demand is outpacing transmission. Seattle City Light has locked up enough electricity to meet the projected need, but a grid failure might mean electricity can't get where it is needed. City Light thinks blackouts are unlikely in Seattle, however an Emergency Plan has been made. In an emergency, CL could roll the blackouts between service territory blocks.

City Light has responded by resource diversity: Klamath Combustion Turbine, State Line Wind, conservation, increase BPA, borrow to pay the bill, pay back the bonds over 2 years with rate

surcharges, and ask customers for money only as it's needed. As a result of an increased conservation awareness campaign, 50% of City Light Customers saved 10%, through July 31, more than 420,000 MWH, enough to power 40,000 homes for a year.

Grant Ringel explained Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) strategy to handle the energy crisis. His department works with customers, the media and advertisers to communicate program information to help customers get the most for their energy dollar and to help them understand the rapidly changing utility industry. PSE has set a 1.5% rate increase January 1, 2001. They are keeping a daily watch on the market, buying and selling, keeping a balance so that the situation doesn't go into an emergency situation. PSE has increased emphasis on conservation education: 50% of their customers saved at least 10% from last year, that is 420 thousand hours or enough to power 40,000 average homes. Certain times of the day are more expensive, and customers are encouraged to move usage, for example, running the dishwasher after 9:00, and doing laundry on Sundays. All of this makes a huge impact. PSE is currently and will continue to advocate to the Federal Government to ask that the California situation be dealt with separately, the rest of the States do not need to be artificially depressed due to California. They will continue to work for long term stability.

George Wood of Human Services Department, City of Seattle, focused on how senior citizens and people with disabilities, and the general public who meet certain income guidelines can save 50% on their City Light bill and combined utilities; how customers can access Rate 27/Special Utility Rate, Rate 26/Elderly/Disabled, and also project Share and assistance programs which provide assistance for low to moderate income Seattle City Light residential customers. The printed information is provided in multiple languages and distributed/posted many places where people congregate.

Questions and discussion followed. Murray thanked the panel for sharing their information with the Advisory Council today.

Committee Reports

Housing Task Force Report

Greg Stack, Co-Chair of the Housing Force reported on the Housing Task Force meeting:

- Judy Moulinet has looked into the possibility of entering a Universally designed "Gingerbread House", at an event that takes place in December at the Sheraton Hotel. Previous participants will get priority, so it is unknown if there will be space available for the Advisory Council entry. Judy will give an update at the next meeting.
- "Housing Washington 2001" Conference, October 15-17, at the Tacoma Sheraton is booked for workshops, but the Task Force will pursue being able to display an exhibit with display boards, or even having brochures available at other vendors' booths. Plans are already being set to assure a part in next year's conference.
- Susan Duncan is continuing work on the Universal Design brochure with the Governor's committee. This would be a statewide brochure and would be an effective means of communication. Judy Moulinet, Emory Baldwin, and Allison Ruff will work with Susan on the brochure. Work on a traveling Power Point is also underway, and would be a useful tool in getting the concept out.
- An SPU Professor and researcher, Dr. Hartje is working with Susan Duncan's Company developing a rating incentive system for Universal Design. The Housing Task Force will work

with her on this; Maureen Traxler, Emory Baldwin and Greg Stack will work with her on designing elements of this project.

- Allison Ruff is pursuing access to a direct link to a web site with the City of Seattle. Currently, the system is cumbersome, making research on a topic laborious. She is also looking at web sites to get the word out on Universal Design. Also in the works, pursuing events in November, which is Universal Design month.
- The Housing Task Force will change its meeting place to the Safeco Building, 23rd and Jackson, for the September meeting. This will allow for easier accessibility. The meetings will continue to be the first Tuesday of each month, at 11:45 – 1:15.

Greg expressed the important role Meryl Abramson has had on the Advisory Council and Housing Task Force, and that she will be greatly missed. As Greg is now the only Co-Chair, he asked for a vice-chair should he be unable to make all the meetings. July Moulinet volunteered and it was agreed that she will be the interim Vice-Chair and serve in Greg's absence.

Helen Spencer suggested a committee member contact the City of Auburn; the Penney's site is to be used as a public housing complex. If it is planned early enough, hopefully universal design concepts could be used.

Outreach & Advocacy Report

Gabe Cohen commended Cleo Corcoran for her work in editing two draft Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services mission statements into one succinct statement. Following discussion and incorporating suggestions the following statement was unanimously adopted:

The mission of the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services is to identify the needs of older people and adults with disabilities in our community, to advise on services to meet these needs, and to advocate for local, state and national programs that promote quality of life for these populations.

Gabe reported that the Outreach and Advocacy Committee would like to write a letter to the King County Council regarding the Aging Policy proposed cutbacks. Suzanne Simmons will give a full report in her Sponsors agenda item; decision was deferred until that time.

The committee recommends that members write to their elected officials regarding privatization of Social Security. They propose that time be allowed for preparatory work to get a balanced decision. The Annual Meeting in November could have Social Security as the main topic. Peggy O'Brien-Murphy has been investigating access to national organizations and Internet information. If this topic does not conflict with any other committee's ideas for the Annual meeting, Gabe requests consideration of this recommendation.

The Price Tag on the Tax Cut: A community briefing event on July 17, 2001 was attended by several AC members, task force members, and ADS staff. The event was sponsored by the UW Fiscal Policy Center, Statewide Poverty Action Network, and the Civic Engagement Project.

The \$2.9 dollar tax cut may affect the State of Washington in key areas such as human services. The committee proposed letters to Senators Cantwell and Murray outlining the concerns of the impact. They will work on a sample letter individual members could use as a sample when writing their personal letter.

Gabe expressed the concern of the committee that it is operating under dual roles, outreach **and** advocacy. Both are vital and need undivided attention. They will work on a recommendation to bring back to the Advisory Council on committee structure.

Planning & Allocation

Miriam Horrigan briefed the Advisory Council on the most recent Planning and Allocation Committee Meeting, held by teleconference on July 25, 2001. Miriam requested approval of the committee's recommendations (part I, below):

Part I

2002 Area Plan Update

Action by the Advisory Council is requested on Items A and B for the 2002 Area Plan Update. These items will be presented to the Sponsors at their August meeting, and then included in the Area Plan Update Public Comment document for public review.

A. 2002 Discretionary Funds Allocation

The Committee received an update of the anticipated 2002 revenue picture and reviewed various considerations impacting 2002. Committee members recommended that the only adjustment needed is to add to the 2002 base allocation the inflationary adjustments that were made to the 2001 base allocation through the 2001 supplemental allocation process. The 2002 adjusted Discretionary Allocation is included in Part II of this section.

Should any additional revenue become available for 2002, we will hold a supplemental allocation process later in 2001 or early next year. At that time, the Committee will review factors that could impact Discretionary allocations such as King County funding reductions to aging services, and new revenue information.

B. Changes to the Aging Component of the Seattle Consolidated Plan

Current language in the Consolidated Plan states that local Human Service Program (HSP) funding will target individuals 55 years of age and older. P&A committee members support the recommendation to lower the age to 50. This would allow congregate meal sites in particular, to better serve ethnic communities where older adults have a shorter life expectancy, for example Native Americans.

In addition, Committee members also support changing the language for nutrition services. Currently the Plan reads:

Nutrition Services provide two types of meal service – congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals – for the nutritionally at-risk.

The P&A committee approved the following revised statement.

Nutrition Services provide two types of meal service – congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals – for the nutritionally at-risk, and individuals raising the children of their relatives (i.e. Kinship Care, such as grandparents raising grandchildren).

This revision would allow meal sites to serve grandparents under 60 years of age, preschool age grandchildren, and individuals raising the children of their relatives. This change would only apply to projects funded with local HSP funding.

Miriam requested approval from the Advisory Council. It was reiterated how important it is to get the word out that the number of people needing services is steadily increasing, and that adequate funding is imperative. The Outreach and Advocacy Committee will search for a grid to demonstrate the per capita data. There was one revision to the Nutrition Services statement, amended to read:

The Nutrition Services statement in the Consolidated Plan will be revised to read:

“Nutrition Services profile two types of meal service – congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals – for the nutritionally at-risk and individuals eligible for services under the Older Americans Act, including grandparents and the children in their care.”

The Advisory Council members moved/seconded/approved to accept Items A and B for the 2002 Area Plan Update as amended and stated above

Part II

Update on 2001 Supplemental Discretionary Allocation

The Amy Wong Client Fund (Client Specific Fund) received a one-time only 2001 supplemental allocation to serve clients over the age of 60, but is likely to be under-expended by approximately \$200,000. If unspent, the excess funds will be lost due to the carryover lid. The Committee supports using \$180,000 to fund the 2001 funding priorities which have been previously adopted by the Sponsors, as well as for addressing Area Plan objectives. These include:

- Case Management - \$132,000: A program through which functionally impaired adults at risk of institutionalization, select, obtain and utilize home care services in order to remain in their homes. Case Management clients with diabetes will receive assistance to bring their disease under control.
- Homesharing-\$2,000: Older homeowners are matched with tenants needing low-cost housing while providing companionship, security and savings to both.
- Technology Support - \$40,000: Resources to service providers to address their electronic communication and data management needs, and planning for the Technology Forum designed to assist service providers.
- Nutrition-\$6,000: Additional meals for homeless elder persons.

The Committee also requested staff to ask the state for a waiver to the 10% carryover lid for 2001 into 2002. This additional flexibility will maximize ADS' ability to address funding needs for 2002.

United Indians of All Tribes: Lee Gaylor reported on the Planning and Allocations Committee's visit to United Indians of All Tribes (UIAT) on August 2, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to open dialogue with community representatives and enhance understanding of the needs of Native American elders. Gary Boots, Chief of Operations explained that UIAT offers comprehensive programs and services that serve individuals from birth to old age. These programs evolved as a result of community needs that were not being met by existing structures. The group also reviewed findings from a survey conducted in 1998 by Mekinak Consulting, and KleinDoerr. P&A members encouraged UIAT to participate in the September 11th Area Plan public hearing, and invited them to make a presentation

before the Advisory Council early next year. Lillian Tang offered assistance with identifying potential grants for the nutrition program.

Area Plan Update: Miriam encouraged members to attend the September 11, 2001 Public Hearing on the Area Plan on Aging Update 2002-2003 to be held at the Highline Senior Center, starting at 10:00 a.m. Copies of the report will be available at the Aging and Disability Services office starting August 27, or call 684-0660 to request a mailed copy. You may also view it on web site <http://www.cityofseattle.net/humanservices/ads/AboutUs/default.htm> .

Sponsors

Suzanne Simmons, King County Liaison, reported on the Proposed Aging Program Funding Policy. The schedule and process are as follows:

- Policy to be introduced to Council on 8/20/01
- Policy will then be assigned to Law Justice & Human Services (LJHS) committee
- LJHS Committee will review at 9/6/01 or 9/20/01 meeting
- The best time to testify is at the LJHS Committee meeting
- LJHS will forward its recommendation on the Policy to the Council, probably in October
- Testimony will also be accepted during the regular meeting when the Policy comes before the Council for adoption

The proposed cuts are explained below:

Eliminate funding for services provided in incorporated areas which are not adjacent to any unincorporated areas:

- Shoreline Adult Day \$33,387
- Fremont Public Association Senior and Adult Services \$99,000

Eliminate funding due to ranking of level of need met by services provided:

- ElderFriends \$17,143
- RSVP \$23,177

Eliminate funding for services where AAA has regional responsibility:

- Senior Rights \$20,571
- Meals on Wheels \$24,000

The Outreach and Advocacy Committee recommends that the Advisory Council write a letter to the King County Council suggesting other ways/areas to look for cuts, other than human services. Gabe Cohen proposed that it be soon as the policy revisions will go before the Council September 6 or 20th. The group reached consensus.

Announcements

Pam Piering reminded members of the September National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) Advocacy meeting at the Kent Senior Center. Peggy O'Brien-Murphy will coordinate transportation.

Will Parry encouraged attendance at the September 15, 2001 Emerging Majority Festival, Passport for Life's Passages at the Seattle Center Pavilion.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: October 12, 2001, Noon – 2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 13th Fl Conference Room
618 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

Suzanne Wiley, Secretary-Treasurer _____